

Claims

1. A medical tube guiding device, said device including:

5 - a first patient engaging portion configured to engage a zone of an upper jaw of the patient;

- a second patient engaging portion configured to engage a zone of a lower jaw of the patient, said first and second patient engaging zones being biased apart to provide a working gap between them; and

10 - a medical tube guide means supportable on one or both of the patient engaging portions and locatable relative to the patient engaging portions to guide the medical tube through the working gap into a mouth of the patient.

2. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second patient engaging portions are portions of a body having resiliently deformable portions.

3. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the first and second patient engaging portions are in the form of a pair of arms having tooth engaging portions.

4. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the first and second patient engaging portions are in the form of a pair of dental arches having tooth engaging portions.

25 5. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medical tube guide means is sized to permit a view into the mouth of the patient through the working gap when the medical tube is in place in the mouth of the patient.

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6. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medical tube guide means is located eccentrically the working gap.

5 7. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medical tube guide means is configured to immobilize the medical tube in a desired position.

10 8. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medical tube guide means includes securing means operable between a securing and a releasing position, said securing means being configured to secure the medical tube against longitudinal displacement unless the securing means is in the releasing position in which case the medical tube is longitudinally displaceable into and out of the mouth of the patient.

15 9. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 8, wherein in the pair of arms meet at an apex, which apex forms a support point for the medical tube guide means.

20 10. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 9, wherein the pair of arms are pivotally displaceable relative to each other.

25 11. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first and second patient engaging portions are biased apart by a one or more of resilient deformability of the material, a coil spring, a leaf spring, and fluid pressure.

30 12. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medical tube guide means includes a eye through which the medical tube to be guided passes.

13. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medical tube guide means includes a slip resistant portion to inhibit the free movement of the medical tube through the medical tube guide means.

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14. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the previous claims, wherein the upper and lower jaw engaging portions include portions configured to approximate the bite size and dimensions of the patient.

10 15. A medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including two or more medical tube guide means.

16. Use of a medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims for guiding an endo-tracheal tube into a mouth of a patient.

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17. Use of a medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 for guiding an endo-tracheal tube into a mouth of a patient.

20 18. A method of reducing the risk of a patient biting closed a medical tube with which the patient is being intubated, said method including using a medical tube guiding device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15 to bias a patient's teeth away from the medical tube while permitting the medical tube to be guided into the patient.

25 19. A medical tube guiding device, as claimed in claim 1, substantially as herein described and illustrated.

20. A new medical tube retaining device substantially as herein described and illustrated.

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21 A method of reducing the risk of a patient biting closed a medical tube with which the patient is being intubated, substantially as described and illustrated in claim 18.

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